



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

June 20, 2000

### **S. 610**

**A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management in Washakie County and Big Horn County, Wyoming, to the Westside Irrigation District, Wyoming, and for other purposes**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
on June 7, 2000*

CBO estimates that enacting S. 610 would not significantly affect the federal budget. We estimate that enacting the bill would increase both offsetting receipts (a credit against direct spending) and the spending of such receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply, but we expect that the net impact on direct spending would not be significant in any year. S. 610 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would have no significant impact on the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

S. 610 would direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the Westside Irrigation District all right, title, and interest (exclusive of mineral interests) in about 16,500 acres of land located in two counties in Wyoming and currently under the administration of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The bill would require the agency to complete an environmental analysis prior to the conveyance, and would direct the Secretary to convey the lands in return for a cash payment equal to their appraised value. According to BLM, those lands probably would not be sold under current law. They generate less than \$2,000 annually in offsetting receipts from grazing fees, and the agency does not expect them to generate significant receipts over the next ten years.

Based on information from BLM, we estimate that agency would spend about \$300,000 during fiscal year 2001 to complete an environmental analysis of the lands, assuming the availability of appropriated funds. We estimate that the lands would be conveyed during fiscal year 2002 in exchange for a payment of about \$1 million. Under S. 610, the Secretary could retain and spend, without further appropriation, any proceeds from the sale to acquire other lands and interests to benefit public recreation, access to public land, fish and wildlife habitat, or cultural resources. As a result, CBO estimates that additional direct spending

over the 2002-2003 period would offset the additional income from the land sale, and that the net impact on direct spending would not be significant in either year.

The CBO staff contact is Megan Carroll. This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.